United Nations A/S-22/9

General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 September 1999

Original: English

Twenty-second special session
Agenda item 8
Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly

Rapporteur: Mr. Navid Hanif (Pakistan)

I. Introduction

1. At the 1st plenary meeting of its twenty-second special session, on 27 September 1999, the General Assembly established an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole and elected John William Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda) Chairman, by acclamation.

2. The Committee held 2 meetings, on 27 and 28 September 1999, to hear representatives of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and to consider the item allocated to it, namely agenda item 8, entitled "Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States".

3. In connection with its consideration of agenda item 8, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/S-22/2 and Add.1);

(b) Letter dated 24 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/S-22/6).

4. At its 1st meeting, on 27 September, the Committee heard a statement by the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme.

5. At the same meeting, the Director of the liaison office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations made a statement.

6. At its 2nd meeting, on 28 September, the Ad Hoc Committee heard statements by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme; the Chief of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; and the Regional Representative for the Caribbean of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

7. At the same meeting, the Representative of the World Meteorological Organization made a statement.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole elected Mr. Navid Hanif (Pakistan) Rapporteur, by acclamation.

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II. Action taken by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

A. Draft declaration and State of progress and initiatives for the future implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

9. At its 1st meeting, the Committee considered the text of the "State of progress and initiatives for the future implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (see A/S-22/2/Add.1, chap. V).

10. At the same meeting, the Chairman orally revised the text by replacing paragraphs 15 (l), (l) *bis* (alternative 1), (l) *bis* (alternative 2) and (l) *ter* with the following:

"15 (l)

"Recall the provisions of paragraph 24, C (iii) of the Programme of Action and reaffirm that the implementation of this paragraph shall be consistent with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other relevant existing international legal instruments, in particular those mentioned in paragraph 67 of the Programme of Action;

"15 (m)

"Taking into account the views and concerns of small island developing States that the transboundary movement of hazardous and radioactive wastes is not adequately covered in the existing international legal regimes, in particular safety measures, disclosure, liability and compensation in relation to accidents, and remedial measures in relation to contamination from such wastes, call on States and relevant international organizations to continue to address these concerns in a specific and comprehensive manner and call on the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly no later than its fifty-sixth session on the efforts and measures undertaken and progress achieved;

"15 (n)

"Continue efforts to implement the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the text as orally revised.

12. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Finland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) and the Marshall Islands.

13. Also at the same meeting, the Committee considered the text of the draft declaration (see A/S-22/2/Add.1, chap. V).

14. At the same meeting, the text of the fifth preambular paragraph was orally corrected by inserting the word "economically" before the word "vulnerable".

15. Also at the same meeting, the Chairman orally revised operative paragraph 9 by removing all square brackets and by inserting the words "acting as the preparatory body for the twenty-second special session" after the words "Commission on Sustainable Development".

16. At the same meeting, the Committee of the Whole adopted the text as orally revised.

17. Also at the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Ad Hoc Committee of Whole decided to recommend to the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session the adoption of the draft text as orally revised (see para. 22 below).

B. Letter dated 24 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

18. At its 1st meeting, on 27 September 1999, the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole had before it a letter dated 24 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the annex thereto (A/S-22/6).

19. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee of the Whole decided to recommend to the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session that it take note of the letter and its annex, and transmit them to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session for further consideration (see para. 23 below).

20. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Barbados, Canada, Cuba, Finland (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Guyana (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Haiti, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Saint Lucia and the United States of America.

C. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

21. At its 2nd meeting, on 28 September, the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole adopted its draft report as contained in document A/S-22/AC.1/L.1 and introduced by the Rapporteur.

III. Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

22. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Declaration and State of progress and initiatives for the future implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly

Adopts the Declaration and State of progress and initiatives for the future implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States annexed to the present resolution.

[For the text of the annex, see document A/S-22/2/Add.1, the correction contained in paragraph 14 above and the revisions contained in paragraphs 10 and 15 above]

23. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Letter dated 24 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The General Assembly, at its twenty-second special session, decides to take note of the letter dated 24 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and of the annex thereto (A/S-22/6), and decides to transmit the letter and its annex to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session for further consideration by the Second Committee under the agenda item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".